

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PA-01 DOEE-00 /105 W
-----104693 290408Z /63
O 290343Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7557

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBJECT PROPOSED FOR
- PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 107982; (B) TOKYO 7421; (C) TOKYO 6932

1. WHEN EMBASSY CONTACTED MOFA TO MAKE POINT GIVEN IN
PARA 2, REFTEL (A), IT LEARNED THAT SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS
HAD OCCURRED CONCERNING PRIMIN'S INTENTIONS TO MENTION
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION TO PRESIDENT AND IN
PUBLIC SPEECH.

2. MOFA OFFICIAL (OHTA, UN BUREAU) GAVE EMBOFF VERBAL
TRANSLATION OF PAPER IN JAPANESE, PREPARED FOR PRIMIN
TO USE WHEN HE TALKS TO PRESIDENT AT LUNCH. INTERPRETER
WILL BE USED DURING LUNCHEON. ALMOST VERTABIM NOTES ON
STATEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

3. "THE FACILITATION OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS THE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
US AND JAPAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION. TOWARD THAT PURPOSE,
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JAPAN IS PREPARED TO MAKE A SUFFICIENT CONTRIBUTION.
AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, IT IS DESIRABLE TO PROMOTE COOPERA-
TION IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY. IN THIS
CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO NUCLEAR
FUSION AND SOLAR ENERGY AS THE MOST PROMISING NEW SOURCES
FOR MANKIND. THE US AND JAPAN ARE ALREADY COOPERATING,
BUT IN THE FUTURE, I HOPE THAT THE COOPERATION WILL BE

EXPANDED SO THAT IT IS ACCOMPLISHED WITH GREATER EFFICIENCY. I ALSO HOPE THAT THE AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION ON NUCLEAR FUSION, NOW UNDER STUDY, WILL BE COMPLETED AT AN EARLY DATE. AS FOR UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES. BESIDES USING SOLAR ENERGY IN THE FORM OF HEAT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO USE THE ENERGY IN THE FORM OF LIGHT -- FOR EXAMPLE, IN PHOTOSYNTHESIS. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMS COULD BE

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LAUNCHED IN THESE FIELDS. (IN EVENT THAT IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENTS ON SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY ARE SIGNED BY MAY 3, ADD: "I EVALUATE HIGHLY THE CONCLUSION OF ARRANGEMENTS ON SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS SYMBOLS OF ENHANCED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND JAPAN.") I HOPE THAT A CONCRETE EXAMINATION WOULD BE PURSUED IN RESPECT OF THE AREAS MENTIONED ABOVE TO DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH WOULD BE MOST MEANINGFUL FOR JAPAN, THE US, AND THE ENTIRE WORLD."

4. TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S NEW YORK SPEECH IS ESSENTIALLY FIXED AFTER HAVING BEEN REVIEWED BY CABINET-LEVEL GROUP. FONMIN SONODA INTRODUCED "PRIVATE" PAPER BY ANONYMOUS OFFI-

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CIAL WITHOUT SHOWING IT TO MOFA STAFFERS, TO THEIR CONSTERNATION. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS DECISION, PAPER PROPOSED CREATION OF JOINT US-JAPAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION FUND. PRIMIN APPARENTLY WILL NOW MAKE STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT IN SPEECH AND WILL SUGGEST THAT PROPOSED FUND BE DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL WITH US IN COMING MONTHS. HE

WILL ALSO REFER TO NEED FOR MORE ATTENTION TO FUSION AND SOLAR ENERGY, AND WILL USE PHOTOSYNTHESIS AS EXAMPLE OF LATTER. AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, PROPOSED FUND WILL NOT BE MENTIONED IN LUNCHEON REMARKS TO PRESIDENT, AND FUKUDA WILL NOT CLAIM IN SPEECH THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED FUND WITH PRESIDENT.

5. TOKYO SHINBUN, IN APRIL 28 MORNING EDITION, CARRIED HEADLINE STORY THAT PRIMIN WOULD PROPOSE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN ENERGY TO PRESIDENT. HYDROGEN PRODUCTION WOULD BE BASED ON PHOTOSYNTHESIS AND ONE BILLION DOLLARS WOULD BE SPENT IN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH TO ACHIEVE PRACTICAL USE OF METHOD BY 1990. MOFA CALLED EMBASSY MORNING OF APRIL 28 TO DENY AUTHENTICITY OF STORY, BUT ADMITTED ON QUESTIONING THAT SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, THAT PRIMIN IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT BECAUSE OF ITS POSITIVE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO RELATIONS WITH US, AND THAT PRINCIPAL MAJOR DEFECT IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IS LEVEL OF CONFIDENTIAL

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FUNDING THAT HAD BEEN DESCRIBED. MOFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT FINANCING LEVEL NOW BEING STUDIED WAS CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN THAT HE TOLD EMBASSY ABOUT PREVIOUSLY (REFTEL (C)), AND WAS OF ORDER OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.

6. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF EMBASSY OFFICERS, FROM DCM DOWN, HAVE HEARD REMARKS MADE THROUGHOUT MOFA THAT PRIMIN IS DETERMINED TO USE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AS MEANS OF BALANCING NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DUE TO TRADE PROBLEMS. KNOWING THAT IT USUALLY TAKES CONSIDERABLE TIME TO REACH CONSENSUS WITHIN GOJ ON ALMOST ANY MATTER, AND PARTICULARLY WHEN A JAPANESE INITIATIVE IS INVOLVED, WE ARE SURPRISED AT SPEED WITH WHICH THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS OCCURRED. AS ALWAYS, THE SUBSTANCE WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RHETORIC, AND IT WILL ONLY BE AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE OF THE SUBSTANCE. HOWEVER, WE DO THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO BE POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN HE RAISES THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION SUBJECT AND WE WERE PLEASED TO LEARN FROM REFTEL (A) THAT THIS IS THE INTENTION. SHERMAN

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